The Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976 was repealed through an Ordinance notified on 11.1.99. The repeal of the Act will boost housing and construction activity in the country by facilitating assembly of land and through release of more land into the market. It will benefit all sections of society. Guidelines have been issued to State Governments to protect the interests of people belonging to EWS and LIG categories.

(d) Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment has reported that there is no proposal to repeal the Agriculture Land Ceiling Act.

शहरों में आम जनता के लिये आवास

2141. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी:** क्या शहरी कार्य और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने विभिन्न बड़े तथा छोटे शहरों में आम जनता के लिये आवास के लिए हो रही कठिनाइयों के बारे में कोई अध्ययन किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी पूर्ण ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) सन् 2000 तक प्रत्येक शहर में प्रति व्यक्ति आवास की आवश्यकता के बारे में सरकार की कार्य-योजना क्या है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार आम जनता को रियायती दर पर आवास उपलब्ध कराने के लिए कोई नीति बनाने का विचार रखती है?

शहरी कार्य और रोजगार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बंडारू दत्तात्रेय): (क) और (घ) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) सरकार द्वारा ऐसी कोई कार्य योजना तैयार नहीं की गई है।

National Housing Policy

2142. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any National Housing Policy has been formulated by Government;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the aspects of this policy which have been implemented;

(d) whether there are any hindrances coming in the way of implementation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to remove these hindrances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The National Housing and Habitat Policy since approved by the Government and laid on the Table of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 29th July, 1998 envisages Government's role as enabler rather than builder.

Government would create an enabling environment by removing the legal, regulatory and financial constraints facing the Housing Sector. This would help all sections of the Society to gain access to land, finance and technology to obtain shelter for themselves. Government will however, continue to intervene directly for the benefit of the poor and vulnerable sections of society. The long term goal of this policy is to create surplus in housing stock either on ownership or rental basis. The State Governments are required to draw up their own action plans to address the housing problems in their States.

As a follow up of the National Housing & Habitat Policy, several steps have been taken as per details below:—

1. Fiscal incentives under the income Tax Act and in customs and excise duties have been secured in last year's budget. More concessions are on the anvil this year.
2. Legal reforms have been initiated to facilitate housing. The Urban Land Ceiling Act has been repealed through an Ordinance. Model Rent Control Legislation has been prepared and circulated among State Governments. States have been advised to adopt it. States have also